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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for collection of blood comprising:

positioning a body portion, from which blood is to be withdrawn, within a shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the body portion and a hand of a user, the shield member having a planar bottom portion without any downwardly extending portions at ends thereof;

stabilizing the body portion within the shield member solely using a digit of the user's hand; and

inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the body portion such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the user's hand.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising holding the shield member in one hand of the user while accomplishing said inserting using another hand of the user.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising providing a wherein the shield member, one portion of which~~ is configured to be held in said one hand, the shield member including and another portion of which is configured and arranged to receive the body portion.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the another portion of the provided shield member includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the body portion.